Delhi Administration, one Pak national was arrested on 8-9-86 and a case under section 3/9 of the Official Secrets Act was registered against him.

(b) According to information available, 23 persons, were arrested on charges of spying for Pakistan during August-September 1986 in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Delhi.

(c) Information for the period from January to June 1987 is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) Government is seized of the problem of espionage particularly in the border States and vigilance by the security agencies on the Indo-Pakistan border and other vulnerable areas has been intensified to check espionage activities.

Cases of Death of Married Women in Delhi

1793. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of death of married women between the ages 18 to 30 in the Delhi region under the category (i) burning (ii) suicide (iii) poisoning and (iv) shooting during the period from 1st January, 1984 to 30th June, 1987;

(b) whether death in any of the above cases took place under suspicious circumstances and referred to the Dowry Death Cell;

(c) whether investigations were done by taking statements of the parents of the deceased; and

(d) what fool-proof methods are contemplated to take direct and indirect evidence in such cases to meet the ends of justice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The requisite figures are indicated below:

Death of married women between the age of 18 to 30 years, by—	1984	1985	1986	1987 upto 30 June, 1987
1. Burning	440	452	478	30
2. Suicide	257	234	251	10
3. Poisoning	37	47	46	1
4. Shooting	2	3	—	
TOTAL	736	736	775	42

(b) 51 cases of dowry deaths were received in the Dowry Cell.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Following steps have been taken in this regard:—

(i) Section 176 Cr. P.C. has been amended to provide that where the death of a woman occurs under suspicious circumstances within 7 years of marriage inquest proceedings shall be conducted by a Sub-Division Magistrate.

(ii) New sections 113 and 115 in the Indian Evidence Act, 18

permit a presumption by the Court as to abetment of suicide and dowry death of a married woman.

(iii) All cases of deaths of married woman within 10 years of their marriage are investigated by senior officers under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

(iv) A Special Cell Crime against Women, headed by a lady Deputy Commissioner of Police with other women police officers, has been set up at the Police Headquarter. Women's Cells have also been set up in all the districts of Delhi Police with women police officers.

(v) A new section in the I.P.C., namely, 304-B has been added to the effect that where the death of a woman occurs otherwise than under normal circumstances within 7 years of her marriage and there is proof of harassment/cruelty by her husband or his relative, it shall be called 'dowry death' and her husband or his relative shall be deemed to have caused her death.

Credit for Powerlooms

1794. SHRI K. VASUDEVAPANICKER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether task force on credit for powerlooms has been set up; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Task Force has been set up by Government Resolution dated 4-5-1987 under the Chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner to *inter alia*, assess the existing flow of credit to the decentralised powerloom sector and to make specific recommendations regarding measures to augment the flow of credit. It is to submit its report within four months from the date of is constitution.

Protection of Cotton growers' interests

1795. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SRHI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to protect the interests of Cotton growers considering the tremendous use of artificial fibres in the entire country;

(b) whether there is any possibility to adopt Cotton Monopoly Scheme like purchase agency throughout the country on the lines of Maharashtra Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what measures are being taken by the State and Central Government to strengthen the Cotton monopoly Scheme in Maharashtra?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHR S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The facility of fibre-flexibility has not adversely affected cotton consumption and therefore, the interests of growers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have decided to extend the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme of Maharashtra for a period of 3 years with effect from 1-7-86, subject to the condition that the guaranteed prices under the scheme would be the same as the